

| ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP | | Date |
|---|--|------------------|
| | | 6 DEC 82 |
| TO: (Name, office symbol, room number, building, Agency/Post) | Initials | Date |
| 1. DD (P&M) | <i>[Signature]</i> | 12/13 |
| 2. DD/O5 | <i>[Signature]</i> | 13 DEC 1982 |
| 3. | | |
| 4. C/SSC | | |
| 5. | | |
| Action | File | Note and Return |
| Approval | For Clearance | Per Conversation |
| As Requested | For Correction | Prepare Reply |
| Circulate | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Your Information | See Me |
| Comment | Investigate | Signature |
| Coordination | Justify | |

REMARKS

British press reporting Parliamentary interest in polygraph in the wake of the PRIME case. Perhaps D/SEC should be prepared for an official inquiry, or do you think the British would go to NSA?

[Signature]

DO NOT use this form as a RECORD of approvals, concurrences, disposals, clearances, and similar actions

FROM: (Name, org. symbol, Agency/Post)

Room No.—Bldg.

Phone No.

28 Nov 82

Lie detector move

THE use of lie detectors is to be examined in a new top-level inquiry into the effectiveness of positive vetting procedures.

By Our Political Correspondent

Senior Government sources confirmed last night that lie detectors, or polygraphs as they are known officially, would be one subject in an investigation by the Security Commission following recent breaks of security.

The study was ordered by Mrs Thatcher earlier this month following the case of Geoffrey Prime, who was jailed after admitting selling secrets to the Russians, and the resignation of Commander Trestrail, the Queen's bodyguard after his relationship with a male prostitute was revealed.

Both men had been positively vetted—Prime on four occasions—but Commander Trestrail's homosexual activities were not revealed, neither was Prime's sexual inadequacy which led eventually to his arrest and unmasking as a Soviet spy.

There has been growing criticism in Parliament of the positive vetting procedure,

under which the backgrounds are checked of people with access to classified information or involved in the protection of senior public figures. Many MPs believe the Government must now take urgent steps to tighten up vetting procedures.

Until now, Ministers, including Mrs Thatcher, have been sceptical of the value of lie detector tests. But they are widely used in the United States, and American security experts in this country after the major breach involving Prime at the Government Communications Headquarters at Cheltenham are known to be pressing strongly for them to be introduced here.

In his report last week on the Trestrail affair, Lord Bridge, head of the Security Commission, referred to the use of lie detectors in positive vetting interviews. He said that it required "thorough investigation" which was beyond the scope of his inquiry.

Lord Bridge said he had looked at research into the use of the lie detector which had revealed a strong conflict of opinion.

He added: "These factors alone seem to me to raise questions as to whether the polygraph could properly be used in the conduct of PV interviews which could only be resolved after very much fuller consideration."

Government sources made clear last night that the latest Security Commission inquiry would be concentrating on positive vetting, and the use of lie detectors would be looked at by Lord Bridge and his colleagues.

At least 15 Conservative

backbenchers have signed a Commons motion tabled by Mr David Gilroy Bevan, Conservative MP for Birmingham, Yardley, calling for an urgent investigation into the use of lie detectors.

Lie detectors work by indicating sudden changes in pulse rate, respiration and moisture on the skin, all of which may change spontaneously if a subject is consciously lying. The changes are measured by electrodes attached to the skin.

The electrodes feed electrical signals to a machine, which draws wavy lines, each representing one of the features being measured.

The lines normally ripple along with small variations but will peak if a lie is told or conditions change.

Considerable skill is needed in the interpretation of the graphs. If, for example, the subject is physically uncomfortable this also will be indicated by peaking.

Secret surveillance

The other possibility for tightening up positive vetting would be to have "random and covert" surveillance of the subject's private life.

But as Lord Bridge pointed out, this would add enormously to the cost of positive vetting and would be "strongly resented by most public servants as an unjustifiable invasion of their privacy."

Although Ministers were insisting that no decision has been taken on lie detectors, and that, on balance, they were against the idea, there is a growing view that they must at least be looked at again.

It is felt there is now such concern about British positive vetting procedures, both here and in the United States, that all measures must be considered.

Government Communications Headquarters, Cheltenham, where Geoffrey Prime worked before being jailed for spying for Russia.

Prime, who is in Long Lartin maximum security prison in Worcestershire, is understood to have been questioned about Mr Brockway.

Mr Brockway, father of two, was found hanged at his home half a mile from the headquarters on Thursday. He is known to have been depressed.

He moved to the headquarters from another GCHQ listening post at Iton Moor, Yorks, last March.

No positive link between the dead man and Prime has been found, it is believed.

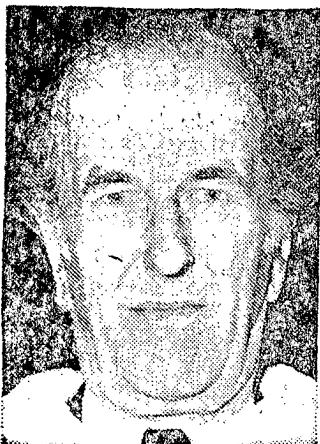
Twelve days after Prime was charged with spying in July, another senior GCHQ officer, Mr Jack Wolfenden, 56, a telecommunications engineer, died when his powered glider crashed into a hillside. At an inquest a verdict of accidental death was returned.

Two trials open tomorrow

On what is thought to be a unique occasion, two, separate Official Secrets Act cases are to start in one day at the Old Bailey.

Just three weeks after the Prime case, Rhona Ritchie, 29, a diplomat from Airdrie in Lanark is due to appear tomorrow charged under Section Two of the Act that on or about November 28 last year while serving in the British Embassy in Tel Aviv she communicated information to an unauthorised person, an Egyptian diplomat Refaat El-Ansary.

Professor Hugh Hambleton 60, from Quebec, is charged under Section One that, while working with Nato in Paris between 1956 to 1961, he communicated information calculated to be directly or indirectly useful to an enemy.



Lord Bridge